

6th CONGRESS.]

No. 155.

[2d Session.]

VALUATION OF LANDS AND DWELLING HOUSES.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 30, 1800.

Mr. GRISWOLD made the following report:

The Committee of Ways and Means, who were instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing the "Act to provide for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses, and the enumeration of slaves, within the United States," report—

That the valuation of lands and dwelling houses has not yet been completed in all the States; and, to repeal the law before that object is accomplished, would, in its effect, defeat the direct tax in those States where the valuation remains incomplete.

That one great object contemplated at the time of passing the law, and which, it is presumed, still exists, was to organize a system for laying direct taxes, to which the Legislature might resort if the exigencies of the Government should require more revenue than could conveniently be drawn from indirect taxes; and to relinquish this object, after the expense of accomplishing it has been incurred, might be a proof of instability, but not of wisdom.

That the expense of procuring the distribution and transfer of real estates, to be recorded in the surveyor's office, incurred by individuals, is, in the opinion of the committee, an object of little importance when opposed to the advantages arising from a public record of titles, and the more important advantages which the Government will derive from the system, if any event should render a direct tax necessary.

Although it is to be hoped that no further direct taxes will become necessary, yet, as it is impossible to pronounce, with certainty, that this will not be the case, the committee believe that it is highly expedient to pursue a system, which, in cases of emergency, may be used to draw into the treasury, with certainty and expedition, any reasonable sums which the public necessities may require.

The committee are therefore of opinion, that it is not expedient to repeal the act providing for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses, and the enumeration of slaves within the United States.

6th CONGRESS.]

No. 156.

[2d Session.]

MINT.

COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS, JANUARY 21, 1801.

*Gentlemen of the Senate,
and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:*

I have received from Elias Boudinot, Esq., Director of the Mint of the United States, a report, of the second of January instant, representing the state of it, together with an abstract of the coins struck at the mint, from the first of January to the thirty-first of December, 1800; an abstract of the expenditures of the mint, from the first of January to the thirty-first of December, 1800, inclusive; a statement of gain on copper coined at the mint from the first of January to the thirty-first of December, 1800, inclusive; and a certificate from Joseph Richardson, assayer of the mint, ascertaining the value of Spanish milled doubloons, in proportion to the gold coins of the United States, to be no more than 84 cents and $\frac{24}{100}$ parts of a cent, for one pennyweight or 28 grains and $\frac{24}{100}$ parts of a grain to one dollar. These papers I transmit to Congress for their consideration.

JOHN ADAMS.

UNITED STATES, January 17, 1801.

To the President of the United States.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, January 2, 1801.

The Director of the Mint respectfully informs the President that the enclosed abstract of the coin issued from the mint of the United States, and struck since the 31st of December last, shows the amount to be three hundred and seventeen thousand seven hundred and sixty dollars, in gold coins; two hundred and twenty-four thousand two hundred and ninety-six dollars, in silver coins; and twenty-nine thousand two hundred and seventy-nine dollars and forty cents, in copper cents and half cents; making up, in the whole, the quantity of five hundred and seventy-one thousand three hundred and thirty-five dollars and forty cents.

For the information of Government, the Director thinks it expedient to enclose a statement of the expenses and profits of the mint for the year past, which, from a number of concurring circumstances, has been full as expensive as may hereafter be expected, extraordinary supplies or repairs excepted.

The Director has a peculiar satisfaction in informing the President that there has been received from the test bottoms and ashes, accumulated before his administration of the mint, four hundred and twenty-eight dollars and forty-seven cents; which repays so much of the nine hundred and seventy-four dollars, heretofore allowed by Congress, as a deficiency in the former account of bullion, and that there is still a quantity of ashes remaining to be cleansed and refined.

The cents issued from the mint, amounting, now, to the sum of seventy-nine thousand three hundred and ninety dollars and eighty-two cents, the proclamation required by law ought to be issued, by which all other copper coin will be put out of circulation.

The late act of Congress, directing the mint to remain at Philadelphia, will expire in March next; some further legal provision will be necessary for its continuance here, or removal to the seat of Government. At all events, it will be necessary to provide some other mode of assaying the reserved pieces, set apart by direction of the act of Congress of the 2d of April, 1792, and required by that act to be done once in every year, under the inspection of the Chief Justice, the Secretary and Comptroller of the Treasury, Secretary for the Department of State, and the Attorney General, who are required to attend at the mint, for that purpose. As it will be impracticable for those officers to leave the seat of Government, to comply with this part of the law, and the year will expire on the second

Monday in February next, the Director respectfully submits to the President the propriety of recommending to Congress the necessity of a previous provision by law, to prevent a non-compliance with a positive injunction of an act of Congress.

The great rise in the price of copper, in Great Britain, has prevented so large an importation, and of course so large an issue of cents from the mint, as would, otherwise, have been done, the public being now tolerably well supplied with that species of small change.

The Director thinks it his duty to inform the President that, having had occasion, during the past year, to have accurate assays made of Spanish milled doubloons, it was found that their real value, compared with the standard of the United States, was rather less than eighty-five cents the pennyweight; whereas, by the act of Congress, of the 9th of February, 1793, they are made a legal tender, at about eighty-seven cents the pennyweight, or, in the language of the act, "at the rate of one hundred cents for every twenty-seven grains and two-fifths of a grain, of the actual weight thereof," which creates a loss, on the part of the citizens of the United States, of twenty-seven dollars and forty-two cents on one thousand pennyweight. The official certificate of the assayer is enclosed with this report.

All which is respectfully submitted to the President.

ELIAS BOUDINOT, *Director.*

The PRESIDENT of the United States.

An abstract of the coins struck at the Mint of the United States, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1800.

GOLD COINS.

	Eagles.	Half Eagles.	Dollars.	Total.
Quarter ending March, - - - - -	-	430	2,150 00	
Do. do. June, - - - - -	8,537	-	85,370 00	
Do. do. September, - - - - -	11,429	8,955	159,065 00	
Do. do. December, - - - - -	* 5,999	2,237	71,175 00	
	25,965	11,622		
Total amount of gold coins, - - - - -				\$317,760 00

SILVER COINS.

	Dollars.	Dimes.	Half Dimes.	Dollars.
Quarter ending March, - - - - -	90,700	21,760	24,000	94,076 00
Do. do. June, - - - - -	32,570	-	-	32,570 00
Do. do. September, - - - - -	57,000	-	-	57,000 00
Do. do. December, - - - - -	40,650	-	-	40,650 00
	220,920	21,760	24,000	
Total amount of silver coins, - - - - -				224,296 00

COPPER COINS.

	Cents.	Half Cents.	Dollars. Cts.
Quarter ending March, - - - - -	1,566,000	-	15,660 00
Do. do. June, - - - - -	307,742	20,978	3,182 31
Do. do. September, - - - - -	948,433	24,000	9,604 33
Do. do. December, - - - - -	-	166,552	832 76
	2,822,175	211,530	
Total amount of copper coins, - - - - -			29,279 40

Total amount of coins issued by the mint, from 1st of January to 31st of December, 1800, inclusive, \$571,335 40

The Director's report of 3d of January, 1800, certifies the amount of copper coins issued from the mint, from the establishment of said institution to said time, \$50,111 42

Add copper coined in the year 1800, 29,279 40

Total of copper coined at the mint, from the establishment of same to December, 1800, \$79,390 82

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, *Treasurer's Office*, 31st December, 1800.

For

BENJ. RUSH.
G. EHRENZELLER.

Statement of the gain on Copper, coined at the Mint of the United States, from the 1st January, to the 31st December, 1800, inclusive.

\$2,922 41	Balance remaining uncoined on the 31st of December, 1799, being part of the invoice entered 18th July, 1799, amounting to \$9,318 75, on which there was a profit of \$2,213 42; this sum will, therefore, bear a proportion of said profit, amounting to	694 21
5,946 66	Amount of invoice entered 31st December, 1799, on which there was a profit, as stated in the accounts of the mint,	3,139 11
125 00	Amount purchased of Jacob Eckfeldt, as entered 6th June, 1800, on which was a profit, as appears by the accounts of the mint,	41 67
10,285 33	Amount of invoice entered 8th July, 1800, on which there was a profit, as appears by the treasurer's accounts,	1,087 29
	Amount gained in weight of last invoice, as entered 16th December, 1800,	\$173 42.5
	Deduct allowances made to the chief coiner, for wastage on copper, as entered 19th June, 1800,	85 02
		88 40.5
\$29,279 40	Amount of copper coined in the year 1800.	
	Total amount of profit on copper, coined in the year 1800, at the Mint of the U. States,	\$5,050 68.5
	Retained on deposits below standard for refining, for the year 1800,	311 57

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1st December, 1800.

For

BENJAMIN RUSH,
G. EHRENZELLER.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, 5th of 1st month, 1801.

At the request of the Director of the Mint, I do hereby certify, that, on carefully assaying a number of Spanish milled doubloons, of different dates and complexions, I found their degree of fineness corresponded with each other, to great exactness; but that their real value, in proportion to gold coins of the standard of the United States, was no more than 84 cents and $\frac{22}{100}$ parts of a cent for one pennyweight, or 28 grains and $\frac{24}{100}$ parts of grain to one dollar.

JOSEPH RICHARDSON,
Assayer to the Mint of the United States.

An abstract of the expenditures of the Mint of the United States, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 1800, inclusive.

	Salaries of officers and clerks,	Wages of laborers.	Incidental and contingent expenses.	Total.
Quarter ending March, 1800, - - - -	\$2,650 00	\$2,103 37	\$456 26	\$5,209 63
Do. do. June, - - - -	2,650 00	1,884 64	446 13	4,980 77
Do. do. September, - - - -	2,650 00	1,926 14	518 15	5,094 29
Do. do. December, - - - -	2,650 00	1,785 90	1,265 70	5,701 60
	\$10,600 00	\$7,700 05	\$2,686 24	
Total amount of the expenditures of the mint, for the year 1800,				\$20,986 29

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, Treasurer's Office, 31st December, 1800.

For

BENJAMIN RUSH,
G. EHRENZELLER.

6th CONGRESS.]

No. 157.

[2d Session.]

CONDITION OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE 28th OF JANUARY, 1801.

Mr. ORIS, from the Committee to whom was referred the letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, announcing his resignation, and who was instructed to examine into the state of the Department of the Treasury; into the mode of conducting the business thereof; and into the expenditure of public money; and to report such facts and statements as may conduce to a full understanding of the transactions of the Treasury, since the same has been under the superintendence of the officer now at the head of that Department, made the following report:

First, in relation to the general state of the Department, and the mode of directing the business thereof.

On the 22d day of May, in the year 1794, a report was made to the House of Representatives, by a committee appointed to examine the state of the Treasury; in which the manner of conducting the business of the Department was detailed with great accuracy, the duties of the various officers, and their mutual checks upon each other, explained;